

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/762,308

Examiner

Anjan K. Deb

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 06/27/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/16/04, 12/29/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed 06/27/2006 in response to non-final office action filed 03/28/2006. Applicant's argument in the amendment (page 5 lines 1-15, and page 6 lines 6-17) in view of amended claim 1 has been considered and is persuasive.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, page 1 line 5, under Related Applications, insert at the end after "2002" -- now abandoned--

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 and 3 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of the claims is the inclusion of the steps:

applying voltage to a conductive cylinder disposed in the aerosol flow having been subjected to the charging process to thereby electrostatically attract and remove floating ions included in the aerosol;

then introducing clean air from the clean zone and a non-charged sheath generating gas flow shaped like a laminar flow in the periphery of the conductive cylinder disposed in the aerosol flow and mixing the sheath gas flow with the aerosol flow, and then applying an electrostatic field to the conductive cylinder to thereby classify the particles existing in the aerosol flow by getting the respective particles into traces deflected depending on their particle sizes;

The above limitations in combination with remaining claims limitations is novel and is neither neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Volsy (US 3,827,217) discloses electrostatic method of collection of particles contained in a gas.

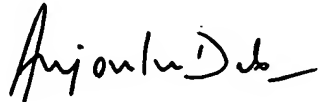
Lane (US 4,928,065) discloses apparatus for classifying charged particles by applying time-varying electric field applied between capacitive test electrodes comprising conductive cylinder (Fig. 7).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Anjan K. Deb whose telephone number is 571-272-2228. If

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attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,
Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached at (571) 272-2168.



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8/10/06